



1755

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 29499/PM265A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:) I hereby certify that this paper is being
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Instruments, And Methods)
)
Group Art Unit: 1755)
)
Examiner: To Be Assigned) James P. Zeller, Reg. No. 28,491
) Attorney for Applicants

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith for consideration by the examiner are copies of the documents identified on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Japanese Application Nos. 11-076868, 11-360187, 2000-002370, 2000-002344, 2000-071999, and 2000-282779 are being submitted in an abundance of caution to ensure compliance with the applicants' duty of disclosure *and are not admitted to be prior art*. These applications were obtained from the European Patent Office's files, and have not been published. Applicants do not know whether corresponding U.S. applications are on file.


This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first office action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no certification or fee is required.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

March 29, 2002

By


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